



FY 2015-16 Tennessee Judicial Weighted Caseload Study Update

Susan Mattson, Principal Legislative Research Analyst
(615) 401-7884/ Susan.Mattson@cot.tn.gov

April 2017

Joshua Testa, Associate Legislative Research Analyst
(615) 747-5248/ Joshua.Testa@cot.tn.gov

Key Points

State law requires the Comptroller of the Treasury to update the judicial weighted caseload study annually to compare the state's judicial resources with an estimate of the judicial resources needed. This update provides estimates based on cases filed in FY 2016.

The state has an estimated net *deficit* of 4.22 judges for FY 2016. The weighted caseload update for FY 2015 showed an estimated net *excess* of 0.78 full-time equivalent (FTE) judges and an estimated net *deficit* of 2.73 judges for FY 2014. Overall, FY 2016 filings increased from FY 2015 by 2,449 cases (1.2 percent).

Yearly Trend in Number of Judicial Resources (Full-Time Equivalent Judges)

	2007 Model			2013 Model			
State Net FTE Judges	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16
Total Judicial Resources	152	152	152	152	152	152	153
Estimated Judicial Resources Needed	150.94	148.55	145.35	157.13	154.73	151.22	157.22
Net excess of deficit in Judicial Resources	1.06	3.45	6.65	-5.13	-2.73	0.78	-4.22

Note: (a) Workers' compensation cases were excluded from the estimated judge need beginning in FY2013.

Source: Calculations by Office of Research and Education Accountability based on data provided by the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC).

The 2016 update also includes yearly trend data for each of the state's judicial districts. (See Exhibit 4 and Appendix C.)

The estimated number of FTE judges that courts need is calculated by multiplying the total number of case filings by case weights (average minutes per case for each type of case) and dividing that number by the judges' annual availability for case-specific work. The quantitative weighted caseload model can approximate judicial workload and the need for judicial resources, but it has limitations. Other factors, such as availability of judicial support staff and local legal practices, also affect judicial resources.

Introduction and Background

The 1997 appropriations bill passed by the General Assembly required the Comptroller's Office to conduct a judicial weighted caseload study to provide policymakers an objective means to determine the need for judicial resources.¹ The Comptroller's Office contracted with the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) in 1998 to conduct a time-series study to determine the case weights that are used to calculate workload and full-time equivalent judges (FTE judges) needed by each judicial district. To account for changing laws and practices, the Comptroller's Office contracted with the National Center for State Courts in 2007 and 2013 to develop a revised weighted caseload model for Tennessee's general jurisdiction trial judges based on a new time study and case filings.^{2,3} Regular updates are designed to produce a more current and accurate gauge of the need for judicial resources throughout the state.⁴

Tennessee Code Annotated (TCA) 16-2-513 requires the Comptroller of the Treasury to update the judicial weighted caseload study annually to assess the workload and need for judicial resources, or FTE judges. This update provides estimates of judicial demand based on cases filed in fiscal year (FY) 2016 using the revised 2013 model.

The estimated number of FTE judges that courts need is calculated by multiplying the total number of case filings by case weights (average minutes per case for each type of case) and dividing that number by the judges' annual availability for case-specific work.⁵

The quantitative weighted caseload model can approximate judicial workload and the need for judicial resources, but it has limitations. Other factors, such as availability of judicial support staff and local legal practices, also affect judicial resources.

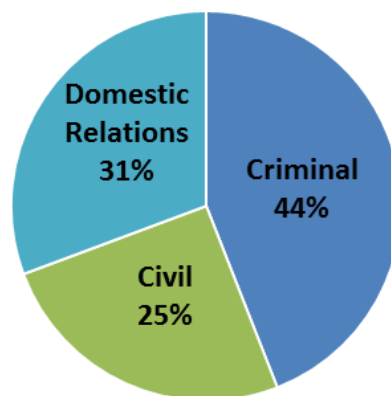
Analysis and Conclusions

Case Filings

In FY 2016, 204,507 cases were filed in Tennessee's state courts. Criminal cases accounted for 44 percent of cases, followed by domestic relations cases at 31 percent and civil cases at 25 percent. (See [Exhibit 1](#).)

Overall, filings increased from FY 2015 by 2,449 cases (1.2 percent). Criminal cases increased about 5 percent, civil cases decreased by about 3 percent, and domestic relations cases stayed roughly the same. The largest changes (a total change of over 1,000 cases from FY 2015) included decreases in the number of workers' compensation (3,462)

Exhibit 1: Filings by Case Type, FY 2016



Note: Workers' compensation cases will not be filed in state trial courts for injuries incurred on or after July 1, 2014. Workers' compensation cases are included in the number of cases filed, but these cases were excluded from the estimated judge need beginning in FY 2013. Source: Chart produced by Office of Research and Education Accountability staff with data provided by the Tennessee Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC).

Exhibit 2: Changes in Trial Court Cases Filings by Case Type, FY 2013 to FY 2016

Case Type	FY 13	FY 14	FY 15	FY 16	Change from FY 15	Percent Change from FY15
Criminal	89,677	90,096	85,847	90,121	4,274	4.98%
First Degree Murder	540	606	675	662	-13	-1.93%
Post Conviction Relief	561	482	486	481	-5	-1.03%
Felony A&B	6,931	7,058	6,913	7,470	557	8.06%
Felony (C,D,E)	33,680	32,432	31,063	32,509	1,446	4.66%
DUI	3,661	3,301	3,321	3,483	162	4.88%
Recovery (Drug) Court (a)	1,012	1,012	1,103	1,275	172	15.59%
Criminal Appeals (including juvenile delinquency)	376	404	297	392	95	31.99%
Misdemeanor	9,252	10,062	9,367	9,939	572	6.11%
Other Petitions, Motions, Writs	1,998	2,076	1,806	2,236	430	23.81%
Other Petitions, Motions, Writs-Prison Districts	3,065	2,963	2,804	2,771	-33	-1.18%
Probation Violation	28,601	29,700	28,012	28,903	891	3.18%
Civil	54,474	54,806	53,271	51,641	-1,630	-3.06%
Administrative Hearings (b)	404	382	420	373	-47	-11.19%
Contract/Debt/Specific Performance	5,917	6,084	5,413	5,527	114	2.11%
Damages/Tort	9,876	9,856	9,777	10,342	565	5.78%
Guardianship/Conservatorship	2,225	2,239	2,263	2,500	237	10.47%
Judicial Hospitalization	641	643	659	717	58	8.80%
Juvenile Court Appeal (Civil)	193	223	195	239	44	22.56%
Medical Malpractice	385	376	356	391	35	9.83%
Probate/Trust	13,168	13,426	13,820	14,250	430	3.11%
Other General Civil	12,396	12,228	12,307	12,556	249	2.02%
Real Estate	1,662	1,479	1,487	1,634	147	9.89%
Workers Compensation (c)	7,607	7,870	6,574	3,112	-3,462	-52.66%
Domestic Relations	67,510	65,508	62,940	62,745	-195	-0.31%
Child Support	12,704	12,758	11,409	11,070	-339	-2.97%
Divorce with Children	12,871	12,014	11,997	12,160	163	1.36%
Divorce without Children	16,905	16,172	16,118	16,285	167	1.04%
Residential Parenting	2,228	2,276	2,046	2,123	77	3.76%
Protection of Children	3,900	4,010	3,923	4,020	97	2.47%
Orders of Protection	8,042	8,128	8,105	8,356	251	3.10%
Contempt	8,483	8,141	7,786	7,409	-377	-4.84%
Other Domestic Relations	2,377	2,009	1,556	1,322	-234	-15.04%
Total Filings	211,661	210,410	202,058	204,507	2,449	1.21%

Notes: (a) Workload is based on the FY 2016 capacity or average daily population of the Recovery (Drug) Courts.

(b) A separate weight for Administrative Appeals was developed for District 20 (Davidson County) in the 2013 time study to reflect additional time required for complex appeals from administrative hearings handled in District 20. Administrative Appeals in other counties are based on the total time reported for those cases in the 2013 time study.

(c) Workers' compensation cases will not be filed in state trial courts for injuries incurred on or after July 1, 2014. Workers' compensation cases are included in the number of cases filed, but these cases were excluded from the estimated judge need beginning in FY 2013.

Source: Calculations by Office of Research and Education Accountability staff based on data provided by the AOC.

and increases in C, D, and E felony cases (1,446) filed from FY 2015. The number of A and B felony cases, probation violation cases and misdemeanor cases increased (over 500 cases each from FY 2015) while the number of other petitions, motions, and writs, and the number of probate/trust cases also increased (over 400 cases each from FY 2015). Meanwhile, the number of child support and contempt cases decreased by over 300 cases each from FY 2015.

Full Time Equivalent Judges

Based on FY 2016 case filing data and workload, the state has an estimated *net deficit* of 4.22 FTE judges. (See [Exhibit 3](#).) The weighted caseload update for FY 2015 showed an estimated net excess of 0.78 FTE judges and net deficit of 2.73 FTE judges in FY 2014.

[Exhibit 4](#) shows the estimated deficit or excess of FTE judges by district over time.^{6, 7} According to the weighted caseload model, four districts show an estimated need of one⁸ or more FTE judge(s) in FY 2016:

- District 13 (Clay, Cumberland, DeKalb, Overton, Pickett, Putnam, and White counties) shows a net deficit of 1.63 judges in FY 2016. Prior to FY 2016, District 13 showed a net deficit of 0.55 in FY 2015 and a net deficit of 0.58 in FY 2014. District 13 saw a 1.08 change in judicial demand from FY 2015 to FY 2016. The district saw an increase of over 700 total cases filed from FY 2015, including 90 additional felony A and B cases, 185 felony C, D, and E cases, as well as 101 more DUI cases from FY 2015.
- District 16 (Cannon and Rutherford counties) shows a need for 1.42 judges in FY 2016, an increase of 0.25 FTE judges from FY 2015. District 16 showed an increase of only 55 total filings from FY 2015, but saw an increase in felony C, D, and E cases of 157 from FY 2015. Historically, District 16 has shown a judicial need of over one FTE judge since the model was adjusted in FY 2013.

Exhibit 3: Yearly Trend in Number of Judicial Resources (FTE Judges)

	2007 Model			2013 Model			
State Net FTE Judges	FY 10	FY 11	FY 12	FY 13	FY 14	FY 15	FY 16
Total Judicial Resources	152	152	152	152	152	152	153
Estimated Judicial Resources Needed	150.94	148.55	145.35	157.13	154.73	151.22	157.22
Net excess or deficit in Judicial Resources ^(a)	1.06	3.45	6.65	-5.13	-2.73	0.78	-4.22

Note: (a) Workers' compensation cases will not be filed in state trial courts for injuries incurred on or after July 1, 2014. Workers' compensation cases are included in the number of cases filed, but these cases were excluded from the estimated judge need beginning in FY 2013. The state net FTE judges associated with workers' compensation cases was estimated as 3.95 in FY 13, 4.08 in FY 14, and 3.41 in FY 15. (See [Appendix C](#).)

(b) See [Appendix A](#) for changes in design and assumptions from 2007 to 2013 Tennessee Trial Courts Judicial Weighted Caseload Models.

Source: Calculations by Office of Research and Education Accountability based on data provided by the AOC.

- District 19 (Montgomery and Robertson counties) shows a need for 1.89 judges in FY 2016. In FY 2015, the district showed a need for 2.77 FTE judges and 2.89 judges in FY 2014. Prior to the FY 2013 revised model, District 19 showed a need for more than one judge for seven years. However, in FY 2015 the General Assembly created a new circuit court judgeship for Judicial District 19.⁹ The judge was sworn in October 30, 2015.¹⁰
- District 23 (Cheatham, Dickson, Houston, Humphreys, and Stewart counties) shows a net deficit of 1.18 FTE judges in FY 2016. The district showed a net deficit of 0.64 FTE judges in FY 2015, a net deficit of 0.71 FTE judges in FY 2014, and a net deficit of 1.01 FTE judges in FY 2013. District 23 has seen an increase of 547 total cases filed from FY 2015, including an increase in felony A and B cases by 131 and felony C, D, and E cases by 102 cases from FY 2015.

According to the weighted caseload model, one district shows an estimated excess of one or more FTE judges in FY 2016:

- District 20 (Davidson County) shows an excess of 1.11 judges in FY 2016 while total case filings decreased from FY 2015 by 2,697. Davidson County has historically shown an excess of 1.07 judges in FY 2015 and an excess of 0.79 judges in FY 2014. Davidson County's judicial need estimate does not include the 0.64 FTE judicial workload associated with workers' compensation cases in FY 2016 since workers' compensation cases were excluded from the estimated judge need beginning in FY 2013. (See [Appendix C](#).)

Another notable change in judge need in FY 2016 was:

- District 30 (Shelby County) showed a net deficit of 0.21 FTE judges in FY 2016, a shift of 1.58 FTE judges from FY 2015, which showed a net excess of 1.37 FTE judges. Shelby County also showed a net excess of judges in FY 2014 (1.25) and FY 2013 (2.76). Overall, filings in Shelby County increased by 1,239 from FY 2015. Shelby County saw increases in first degree murder by 19 total cases, felony A and B cases by 123 total cases and medical malpractice by 18 cases, all carrying high case weights.

Exhibit 4: Difference between Actual Number of Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Judges and Need for FTE Judges by District, FY 2012 – FY 2016

	2007 Model	2013 Model			
Judicial District (Counties)	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016
District 1 (Carter, Johnson, Unicoi, and Washington)	0.54	0.27	-0.32	0.23	0.19
District 2 (Sullivan)	0.64	0.10	0.37	0.31	0.16
District 3 (Greene, Hamblen, Hancock, and Hawkins)	0.86	0.44	0.28	0.25	-0.06
District 4 (Cocke, Grainger, Jefferson, and Sevier)	-0.26	-1.01	-0.89	-0.54	-0.83
District 5 (Blount)	0.04	-0.26	0.01	0.06	-0.10
District 6 (Knox)	0.36	-0.42	0.11	0.43	-0.27
District 7 (Anderson)	-0.04	-0.11	-0.18	0.23	0.22
District 8 (Campbell, Claiborne, Fentress, Scott, and Union)	-0.26	-0.34	-0.08	-0.11	-0.44
District 9 (Loudon, Meigs, Morgan, and Roane)	0.80	0.64	0.80	0.85	0.80
District 10 (Bradley, McMinn, Monroe, and Polk)	-0.28	-0.29	-0.42	-0.13	-0.12
District 11 (Hamilton)	1.07	-0.47	0.32	0.08	0.23
District 12 (Bledsoe, Franklin, Grundy, Marion, Rhea, and Sequatchie)	-0.39	-0.96	-0.73	-0.47	-0.44
District 13 (Clay, Cumberland, DeKalb, Overton, Pickett, Putnam, and White)	-0.09	-0.61	-0.58	-0.55	-1.63
District 14 (Coffee)	0.60	0.61	0.82	0.77	0.43
District 15 (Jackson, Macon, Smith, Trousdale, and Wilson)	0.27	0.18	0.10	0.37	0.04
District 16 (Cannon and Rutherford)	-0.45	-1.28	-1.17	-1.17	-1.42
District 17 (Bedford, Lincoln, Marshall, and Moore)	1.06	0.52	0.52	0.43	0.22
District 18 (Sumner)	-0.29	-0.59	-0.46	-0.63	-0.45
District 19 (Montgomery and Robertson)	-2.04	-2.75	-2.89	-2.77	-1.89
District 20 (Davidson)	-0.94	0.06	0.79	1.07	1.11
District 21 (Hickman, Lewis, Perry, and Williamson)	-0.62	-0.54	-0.41	-0.24	-0.58
District 22 (Giles, Lawrence, Maury, and Wayne)	-0.53	-1.26	-1.05	-0.76	-0.42
District 23 (Cheatham, Dickson, Houston, Humphreys, and Stewart)	-0.28	-1.01	-0.71	-0.64	-1.18
District 24 (Benton, Carroll, Decatur, Hardin, and Henry)	0.85	0.81	0.92	0.95	0.87
District 25 (Fayette, Hardeman, Lauderdale, McNairy, and Tipton)	0.34	-0.19	-0.08	0.18	0.38
District 26 (Chester, Henderson, and Madison)	0.40	-0.08	-0.01	0.14	0.52
District 27 (Obion and Weakley)	0.36	0.26	0.45	0.59	0.42
District 28 (Crockett, Gibson, and Haywood)	0.54	0.37	0.44	0.57	0.58
District 29 (Dyer and Lake)	0.59	0.31	0.36	0.24	0.18
District 30 (Shelby)	4.03	2.76	1.25	1.37	-0.21
District 31 (Van Buren and Warren)	-0.24	-0.31	-0.27	-0.32	-0.52
Statewide Excess or Deficit FTE Judges	6.65	-5.13	-2.73	0.78	-4.22

Source: Calculations by Office of Research and Accountability staff based on data provided by the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC).

Appendix A: Changes in Design and Assumptions from 2007 to 2013 Tennessee Trial Courts Judicial Weighted Caseload Models

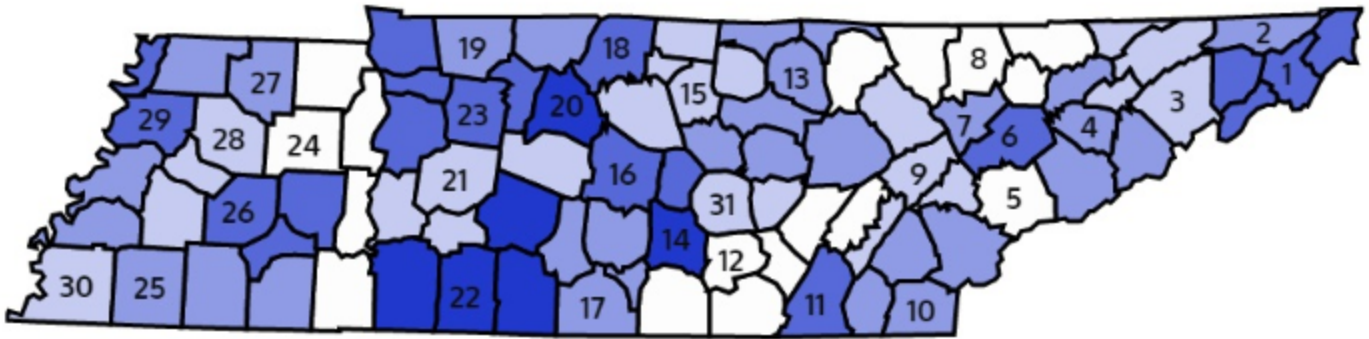
In 2013, the National Center for State Courts worked with selected Tennessee trial court judges and staff with the Administrative Office of the Courts and the Comptroller's Office to develop a revised model to estimate the total judicial officer demand based on cases filed. Tennessee judges reported their time for six weeks out of an 11-week period in the summer of 2013, which was used to determine the average time spent on case-related and non-case-related activities statewide. Based on the 2013 time study, new case weights were assigned to each case type in order to more accurately estimate judicial need throughout the state.^A

Changes made to the model in 2013 include:

- The case type First Degree Murder was separated from the Major Felony case type to account for the greater average judge time required for First Degree Murder cases.
- Separate case types and average times required were added for post-conviction relief, residential parenting, and domestic relations contempt cases to better reflect the judge time required for these cases.
- A separate case weight was added for Other Petitions, Motions, and Writs cases for districts with a state prison to reflect the additional time required for post-conviction relief cases including habeas corpus petitions from state prisoners.
- A separate weight for Administrative Appeals was developed for District 20 (Davidson County) to reflect the additional time required for complex appeals from administrative hearings handled in District 20. Administrative Appeals in other counties are based on the total time reported for those cases.
- Judge availability is based on an eight-hour day; earlier models were based on a 7.5 hour day.
- Due to changes in state law, workers' compensation cases will no longer be filed in state courts for injuries incurred on or after July 1, 2014. Workers' compensation cases are included in the number of cases filed, but these cases were excluded from the estimated judge need beginning in FY 2013.

^A A complete report describing the process and the 2013 revised model is available at <http://www.comptroller.tn.gov/Repository/RE/NCSC%20Judicial%202013.pdf>.

Appendix B: Tennessee Judicial Districts



- District 1 – Carter, Johnson, Unicoi, and Washington Counties
- District 2 – Sullivan County
- District 3 – Greene, Hamblen, Hancock, and Hawkins Counties
- District 4 – Cocke, Grainger, Jefferson, and Sevier Counties
- District 5 – Blount County
- District 6 – Knox County
- District 7 – Anderson County
- District 8 – Campbell, Claiborne, Fentress, Scott, and Union Counties
- District 9 – Loudon, Meigs, Morgan, and Roane Counties
- District 10 – Bradley, McMinn, Monroe, and Polk Counties
- District 11 – Hamilton County
- District 12 – Bledsoe, Franklin, Grundy, Marion, Rhea, and Sequatchie Counties
- District 13 – Clay, Cumberland, DeKalb, Overton, Pickett, Putnam, and White Counties
- District 14 – Coffee County
- District 15 – Jackson, Macon, Smith, Trousdale, and Wilson Counties
- District 16 – Cannon and Rutherford Counties
- District 17 – Bedford, Lincoln, Marshall, and Moore Counties
- District 18 – Sumner County
- District 19 – Montgomery and Robertson Counties
- District 20 – Davidson County
- District 21 – Hickman, Lewis, Perry, and Williamson Counties
- District 22 – Giles, Lawrence, Maury, and Wayne Counties
- District 23 – Cheatham, Dickson, Houston, Humphreys, and Stewart Counties
- District 24 – Benton, Carroll, Decatur, Hardin, and Henry Counties
- District 25 – Fayette, Hardeman, Lauderdale, McNairy, and Tipton Counties
- District 26 – Chester, Henderson, and Madison Counties
- District 27 – Obion and Weakley Counties
- District 28 – Crockett, Gibson, and Haywood Counties
- District 29 – Dyer and Lake Counties
- District 30 – Shelby County
- District 31 – Van Buren and Warren Counties

Source: Administrative Office of the Courts, 2006.

Appendix C: Tennessee Judicial Weighted Caseload Update, FY 2015, Case Filings per Judicial District

		Case Filings per Judicial District										
	Case Type	Case Weight	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Criminal	First Degree Murder	776	9	4	10	13	0	26	4	4	3	17
	Post Conviction Relief	381	2	17	11	19	16	11	5	4	1	7
	Felony A&B	157	133	127	204	219	52	252	37	95	84	216
	Felony (C, D, E)	45	1,104	999	958	1,401	484	1,772	315	807	567	1,053
	DUI	89	63	45	93	205	37	175	49	86	79	57
	Recovery (Drug) Court **	167		25		50	69		30	40		40
	Criminal Appeals (incl. juvenile delinquency)	11	17	95	1	3	6	3	1	5	1	0
	Misdemeanor	29	269	191	268	476	128	218	106	134	122	151
	Other Petitions,Motions, Writs	28		135	77	133	27	187	17	47		48
	Other Petitions,Motions, Writs-Prison Districts	57	33								14	
Probation Violation	18	1,345	1,235	764	1,831	804	1,199	442	924	416	1,053	
General Civil/Other	Administrative Hearings *	204	9	10	14	3	1	5	8	14	5	14
	Contract/Debt/Specific Performance	104	588	219	188	275	102	493	35	129	89	131
	Damages/Tort	135	198	171	208	352	119	947	130	176	158	293
	Guardianship/Conservatorship	70	75	53	75	28	19	464	15	37	31	83
	Judicial Hospitalization	19	3	19	4	0	13	0	1	0	0	1
	Juvenile Court Appeal (Civil)	287	2	5	7	3	8	38	4	42	10	7
	Medical Malpractice	1320	5	18	6	0	2	37	0	5	0	4
	Probate/Trust	24	697	680	681	190	3	1,408	282	386	241	445
	Other General Civil	58	311	336	324	453	194	804	169	103	121	483
	Real Estate	259	49	34	48	56	31	133	41	46	65	37
Domestic Relations	Workers Compensation	0	24	24	53	36	14	366	51	63	39	45
	Child Support	20	316	175	1,010	874	464	569	234	306	356	482
	Divorce with Children	106	433	284	464	488	208	808	150	284	70	508
	Divorce without Children	40	691	436	622	719	219	1,099	167	292	115	660
	Residential Parenting	108	70	55	82	45	27	158	60	12	10	73
	Protection of Children (paternity,adoption,legitimation,surrender,TPR)	65	180	95	171	151	150	357	104	89	69	207
	Orders of Protection	32	78	207	376	581	0	2,299	85	2	55	643
	Contempt	14	259	291	264	394	68	290	407	8	193	472
	Other Domestic Relations	73	139	4	58	38	11	59	41	28	24	15
	Total Filings			7,102	5,989	7,041	9,036	3,276	14,177	2,990	4,168	2,938
Workload (Weights x Filings)			383,036	311,179	366,565	456,285	177,114	842,845	150,020	237,714	157,480	390,522
Judge Year (210 days per year, 8 hrs per day)			100,800	100,800	100,800	100,800	100,800	100,800	100,800	100,800	100,800	100,800
Average District Travel per year			4,830	3,465	11,907	6,111	42	2,373	0	15,393	12,789	8,148
Non-case related Time (78 minutes/day)			16,380	16,380	16,380	16,380	16,380	16,380	16,380	16,380	16,380	16,380
Availability for Case-Specific Work			79,590	80,955	72,513	78,309	84,378	82,047	84,420	69,027	71,631	76,272
# Judges			5	4	5	5	2	10	2	3	3	5
Total Judicial Officer Demand			4.81	3.84	5.06	5.83	2.10	10.27	1.78	3.44	2.20	5.12
FTE Deficit or Excess			0.19	0.16	-0.06	-0.83	-0.10	-0.27	0.22	-0.44	0.80	-0.12
Criminal Judges Needed			1.48	1.42	1.64	2.45	0.83	2.35	0.54	1.33	0.84	1.75
Civil Judges Needed			1.88	1.50	1.56	1.59	0.63	4.72	0.62	1.28	0.93	1.54
Domestic Relations Judges Needed			1.45	0.92	1.85	1.78	0.65	3.21	0.61	0.83	0.43	1.83
Child Support Referee			No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Source: National Center for State Courts, 2013. Data on Filings provided by the Tennessee Administrative Office of the Courts.

* The 20th Judicial district is statutorily mandated jurisdiction in UAPA Administrative Hearing cases. A case weight of 496 minutes is used in this district.

** Workload is based on the FY2015 capacity or average daily population reported by state-level Recovery Drug Court administrators.

Workers Compensation	41	24	24	53	36	14	366	51	63	39	45
Judicial workload associated with Workers Comp. cases (minutes)		984	984	2,173	1,476	574	15,006	2,091	2,583	1,599	1,845
Judicial FTE associated with Workers Comp. cases		0.01	0.01	0.03	0.02	0.01	0.18	0.02	0.04	0.02	0.02

Note: Workers' compensation cases will not be filed in state trial courts for injuries incurred on or after July 1, 2014. Workers' compensation cases are excluded from the estimated judge need beginning in FY 2013.

Case Filings per Judicial District												
	Case Type	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Criminal	First Degree Murder	51	3	6	1	6	26	3	4	31	134	6
	Post Conviction Relief	12	5	7	1	5	6	36	5	36	27	14
	Felony A&B	396	202	296	150	150	326	137	139	286	827	161
	Felony (C, D, E)	1740	867	1265	480	976	1298	352	686	1113	2418	806
	DUI	239	65	379	24	167	141	4	61	150	213	89
	Recovery (Drug) Court **	71	80	40	46	25	100		50		240	54
	Criminal Appeals (incl. juvenile delinquency)	62	0	14	1	14	10	1	19	27	53	12
	Misdemeanor	789	206	1055	152	889	462	17	97	731	536	258
	Other Petitions,Motions, Writs	27		92	78	74	43	368	13	186		
	Other Petitions,Motions, Writs-Prison Districts		39								430	129
Probation Violation	1301	870	1558	313	759	995	143	669	901	3022	791	
General Civil/Other	Administrative Hearings *	11	5	6	1	4	1	1	0	11	131	28
	Contract/Debt/Specific Performance	239	76	115	38	96	173	40	130	122	834	234
	Damages/Tort	718	192	266	106	237	496	103	222	383	1634	276
	Guardianship/Conservatorship	342	51	96	13	74	56	48	88	90	265	114
	Judicial Hospitalization	274	2	1	0	4	14	1	0	0	305	1
	Juvenile Court Appeal (Civil)	3	17	10	0	3	6	1	2	2	16	16
	Medical Malpractice	37	1	10	0	1	17	4	9	5	66	5
	Probate/Trust	914	494	481	179	610	52	450	703	523	1748	662
	Other General Civil	738	226	228	126	218	669	294	264	441	1623	394
	Real Estate	86	46	204	15	57	58	21	34	62	129	54
Workers Compensation	191	32	52	20	40	86	33	27	25	1301	18	
Domestic Relations	Child Support	221	649	318	147	152	391	606	286	879	601	314
	Divorce with Children	573	290	386	128	290	661	282	415	892	845	510
	Divorce without Children	896	381	423	155	450	820	322	443	1038	1454	443
	Residential Parenting	114	44	73	3	72	213	66	124	174	92	76
	Protection of Children (paternity,adoption,legitimation,surrender,TPR)	281	99	192	30	120	245	74	133	182	129	133
	Orders of Protection	908	145	3	2	48	575	57	178	11	1379	10
	Contempt	516	393	61	116	45	293	316	146	280	340	411
	Other Domestic Relations	224	175	13	11	29	51	11	28	39	190	27
	Total Filings	11,974	5,655	7,650	2,336	5,615	8,284	3,791	4,975	8,620	20,982	6,046
	Workload (Weights x Filings)	739,583	292,557	448,466	130,700	298,656	538,341	201,518	289,254	514,723	1,405,675	359,864
Judge Year (210 days per year, 8 hrs per day)	100,800	100,800	100,800	100,800	100,800	100,800	100,800	100,800	100,800	100,800	100,800	
Average District Travel per year	42	18,564	16,758	987	9,030	630	11,991	462	9,744	1,218	5,817	
Non-case related Time (78 minutes/day)	16,380	16,380	16,380	16,380	16,380	16,380	16,380	16,380	16,380	16,380	16,380	
Availability for Case-Specific Work	84,378	65,856	67,662	83,433	75,390	83,790	72,429	83,958	74,676	83,202	78,603	
# Judges	9	4	5	2	4	5	3	3	5	18	4	
Total Judicial Officer Demand	8.77	4.44	6.63	1.57	3.96	6.42	2.78	3.45	6.89	16.89	4.58	
FTE Deficit or Excess	0.23	-0.44	-1.63	0.43	0.04	-1.42	0.22	-0.45	-1.89	1.11	-0.58	
Criminal Judges Needed	3.15	1.79	3.14	0.82	1.79	2.31	0.93	1.04	2.53	6.09	1.50	
Civil Judges Needed	3.44	1.24	2.21	0.42	1.22	2.01	0.84	1.23	1.80	7.91	1.77	
Domestic Relations Judges Needed	2.18	1.41	1.28	0.33	0.95	2.10	1.02	1.18	2.56	2.89	1.31	
Child Support Referee	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	

Source: National Center for State Courts, 2013. Data on Filings provided by the Tennessee Administrative Office of the Courts.

* The 20th Judicial district is statutorily mandated jurisdiction in UAPA Administrative Hearing cases. A case weight of 496 minutes is used in this district.

** Workload is based on the FY2015 capacity or average daily population reported by state-level Recovery Drug Court administrators.

Workers Compensation	191	32	52	20	40	86	33	27	25	1301	18
Judicial workload associated with Workers Comp. cases (minutes)	7,831	1,312	2,132	820	1,640	3,526	1,353	1,107	1,025	53,341	738
Judicial FTE associated with Workers Comp. cases	0.09	0.02	0.03	0.01	0.02	0.04	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.64	0.01

Note: Workers' compensation cases will not be filed in state trial courts for injuries incurred on or after July 1, 2014. Workers' compensation cases are excluded from the estimated judge need beginning in FY 2013.

Case Filings per Judicial District												
	Case Type	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	Totals
Criminal	First Degree Murder	18	12	9	17	18	0	4	8	205	10	662
	Post Conviction Relief	21	8	4	1	33	2	5	4	150	6	481
	Felony A&B	258	269	132	135	181	142	55	75	1667	67	7,470
	Felony (C, D, E)	876	802	375	753	534	244	262	431	6557	214	32,509
	DUI	248	126	27	90	49	4	15	9	452	42	3,483
	Recovery (Drug) Court **		50		30	35	50		20		130	1,275
	Criminal Appeals (incl. juvenile delinquency)	11	5	4	3	0	0	6	2	13	3	392
	Misdemeanor	490	306	47	149	139	36	41	42	1194	240	9,939
	Other Petitions,Motions, Writs		425	29		82	6	119			23	2,236
	Other Petitions,Motions, Writs-Prison Districts	22			30				29	2045		2,771
Probation Violation	1185	879	514	1234	621	256	118	291	2078	392	28,903	
General Civil/Other	Administrative Hearings *	3	4	2	7	7	2	4	4	56	2	373
	Contract/Debt/Specific Performance	74	51	51	101	48	29	49	14	730	34	5,527
	Damages/Tort	207	61	122	149	234	49	81	56	1936	62	10,342
	Guardianship/Conservatorship	63	41	33	72	14	30	33	80	2	15	2,500
	Judicial Hospitalization	0	0	1	69	3	0	1	0	0	0	717
	Juvenile Court Appeal (Civil)	11	3	0	1	1	0	1	1	18	1	239
	Medical Malpractice	6	2	5	1	7	3	3	2	129	1	391
	Probate/Trust	549	213	376	342	120	211	300	120	1	189	14,250
	Other General Civil	287	258	174	256	276	127	141	672	1702	144	12,556
	Real Estate	44	35	28	30	25	11	13	12	117	13	1,634
Workers Compensation	50	13	30	24	42	264	24	14	98	13	3,112	
Domestic Relations	Child Support	407	338	63	98	123	134	255	75	111	116	11,070
	Divorce with Children	365	303	176	287	438	117	145	99	1192	69	12,160
	Divorce without Children	439	389	178	718	741	154	157	134	1465	65	16,285
	Residential Parenting	57	52	64	29	129	26	25	28	65	5	2,123
	Protection of Children (paternity,adoption,legitimation,surrender,TPR)	108	151	57	72	91	33	21	15	235	46	4,020
	Orders of Protection	204	73	0	39	19	1	0	88	0	290	8,356
	Contempt	162	645	132	186	127	320	72	5	169	28	7,409
	Other Domestic Relations	31	11	4	5	7	19	5	0	23	2	1,322
	Total Filings	6,196	5,525	2,637	4,928	4,144	2,270	1,955	2,330	22,410	2,222	204,507
	Workload (Weights x Filings)	342,465	278,803	157,253	253,911	281,908	112,034	107,836	138,736	1,868,825	127,144	12,361,012
Judge Year (210 days per year, 8 hrs per day)	100,800	100,800	100,800	100,800	100,800	100,800	100,800	100,800	100,800	100,800	100,800	
Average District Travel per year	6,993	17,766	10,731	14,217	3,339	13,545	8,526	8,358	294	672	5,376	
Non-case related Time (78 minutes/day)	16,380	16,380	16,380	16,380	16,380	16,380	16,380	16,380	16,380	16,380	16,380	
Availability for Case-Specific Work	77,427	66,654	73,689	70,203	81,081	70,875	75,894	76,062	84,126	83,748	79,044	
# Judges	4	3	3	4	4	2	2	2	22	1	153	
Total Judicial Officer Demand	4.42	4.18	2.13	3.62	3.48	1.58	1.42	1.82	22.21	1.52	157.22	
FTE Deficit or Excess	-0.42	-1.18	0.87	0.38	0.52	0.42	0.58	0.18	-0.21	-0.52	-4.22	
Criminal Judges Needed	2.08	2.20	0.81	1.57	1.32	0.69	0.44	0.67	11.91	0.84	62.25	
Civil Judges Needed	1.20	0.75	0.78	1.01	0.91	0.44	0.56	0.83	7.77	0.37	54.95	
Domestic Relations Judges Needed	1.14	1.23	0.54	1.04	1.25	0.45	0.42	0.32	2.54	0.31	40.02	
Child Support Referee	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No		

Source: National Center for State Courts, 2013. Data on Filings provided by the Tennessee Administrative Office of the Courts.

* The 20th Judicial district is statutorily mandated jurisdiction in UAPA Administrative Hearing cases. A case weight of 496 minutes is used in this district.

** Workload is based on the FY2015 capacity or average daily population reported by state-level Recovery Drug Court administrators.

Workers Compensation	50	13	30	24	42	264	24	14	98	13	3,112
Judicial workload associated with Workers Comp. cases (minutes)	2,050	533	1,230	984	1,722	10,824	984	574	4,018	533	127,592
Judicial FTE associated with Workers Comp. cases	0.03	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.15	0.01	0.01	0.05	0.01	1.61

Note: Workers' compensation cases will not be filed in state trial courts for injuries incurred on or after July 1, 2014. Workers' compensation cases are excluded from the estimated judge need beginning in FY 2013.

Endnotes

- ¹ Public Acts, 2014, Chapter No. 552, Section 12, Item 35.
- ² National Center for State Courts, *Tennessee Trial Courts, Judicial Weighted Caseload Study*, 2007, <http://www.comptroller.tn.gov/>. See study for a complete explanation of methodology and qualitative issues to consider.
- ³ National Center for State Courts, *Tennessee Trial Courts, Judicial Weighted Caseload Study*, 2013, <http://www.comptroller.tn.gov/>. See study for a complete explanation of methodology and qualitative issues to consider.
- ⁴ See [Appendix A](#) for a description of changes in design and assumptions from the 2007 to the 2013 Tennessee Trial Courts Judicial Weighted Caseload Model.
- ⁵ National Center for State Courts, Tennessee Trial Courts, *Judicial Weighted Caseload Study*, 2013, <http://www.comptroller.tn.gov/>. See the Preliminary Case Weights section on pages 5-6 of the study for a complete explanation for creating the measure.
- ⁶ See [Appendix B](#) for a map of Tennessee Judicial Districts.
- ⁷ See [Appendix C](#) for the detailed calculations of judicial resource need statewide and by judicial district.
- ⁸ In previous years, OREA used 0.8 FTE judges as the threshold for change when providing an explanation for the shift in judicial demand. For FY 2016, OREA simplified the threshold to one FTE judge. The higher threshold excluded District 4 (-.83) from the net deficit list and Districts 9 (.80) and District 24 (.87) from the excess list. None of these districts have had an excess or deficit of over one judge in the last three years.
- ⁹ Public Acts, 2015, Chapter No. 437.
- ¹⁰ Office of the Governor, News release, *Haslam Appoints Ayers Circuit Court Judge for 19th Judicial District*, Oct. 21, 2015, <https://www.tn.gov/> (accessed March 13, 2017).



OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY
Russell Moore, Director
Suite 1700, James K. Polk Building ▪ 505 Deaderick Street
Nashville, Tennessee 37243 ▪ (615) 401-7866
www.comptroller.tn.gov/orea

